(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A Swadeshi Vigyan Mela was organized by Vigyan Bharti.

(b) to (d) ICAR has no plans to organize such melas or chaupals for the farmers.

Technology Mission on Black Pepper

1531. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a project called "Technology Mission on Black Pepper" prepared by expert committee of the Kerala State Government with a view to improve the productivity and quality of the black pepper in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether the State Government has sought any financial assistance for the implementation of the project; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee constituted by Government of Kerala recommended a package of programmes and activities under four Mini Mission Reports, viz., Research, Production, Storage marketing and quality improvement and Export Promotion. The State Government of Kerala has proposed Technology Mission for Black Pepper for implementation as a state activity with total project cost of Rs. 221.62 crores for 7 years. The Mission envisages to pool available resources and efforts and integrate the activities of all State and Central institutions/agencies located in the State and involved in development of this corp to work towards the objective of improving production and productivity of black pepper.

(c) and (d) The total project cost is to be borne by various participating departments/agencies of Union and State Government. Final decision has not been taken with regard to financial implications of various participating

agencies/departments, as it involves inter-governmental and inter-ministerial coordination.

Soyabean Production

†1532. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of soyabean in the country; if so, the percentage of the production of Madhya Pradesh out of the total production;

(b) whether Government are going to open a soyabean research center in Vidisha or some other soyabean producer district of Madhya Pradesh in view of the increasing importance of soyabean and its heavy production in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; whether it will be considered in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of soyabean contributing about 64% to the total production of soyabean in the country.

(b) and (c) The National Research Centre on Soyabean (NRCS) under I.C.A.R. is located at Indore in Madhya Pradesh. Besides this, a coordinating unit of All India Coordinated Research Project on Soyabean is also located at National Research Centre on Soyabean, Indore. The other Research Centres under the All India Coordinated Research Project located in Madhya Pradesh are Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Sehore and Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Jabalpur. During the Ninth Plan, another center at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Raipur has also been approved for Soyabean research in Madhya Pradesh.

Cotton Development Programme

1533. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Intensive Cotton Development programme is being implemented in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas which have been covered under the programme;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.